

Mohave County Miner.

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The Passing of a Great Mine.

With the passing of the Consolidated Mercur Gold Mines company, says Dern & Thomas of Salt Lake, in their current market letter, goes one of the historic camps of the West, known throughout the mining world as the cradle of the cyanide process, and from the camp there has been produced such men as D. C. Jackling, Duncan MacVichie, Victor Clements, H. A. Cohen, George H. Robinson, Frank J. Janney and George H. Dern. Each one of these engineers has made his name known in the mining world. All did not work for the Consolidated Mercur but gained much of their experience in milling from being employed in the camp.

For a quarter of a century and more the Consolidated Mercur has been steadily grinding out gold and during its lifetime 15,000,000 of the yellow metal has been produced there. To its stockholders it has given 3,455,312 in dividends, while to the world it has given information of cyaniding that has brought many more millions into the world.

Sunday morning the oldest miner in the employ of the company lowered the last car into the mine and it was filled and brought up. The American flag was hoisted to the topmost point on the flagpole, and the whistle that has called thousands to work in its day was tied down for an hour, and its shrieks carried the sad news that Mercur is no more, that where once 600 men plodded each day to their toil there is nothing left to employ them. For many years past the company just existed, but during each year it has added a half million dollars worth of gold to the world's supply.

In the early days of the mine the ore was in a more oxidized form, but as depth was gained arsenic, sulphur and other minerals entered into the ore and its treatment became more complex. During the past few years the company has been treating ore that was low as 3 1/2 a ton in gold. This ore had to be roasted before it could be treated. On account of this the costs were heavy and profits or losses at times depended on the fraction of a hair's breadth.

Probably two weeks more will be required to clean up the mill and pick up all the values that have been overlooked in the plant. Then the camp of Mercur will practically cease to be—it will be only a memory of the greatest gold camp Utah has ever had. It began its existence with the advent of John Dern and Edward H. Airis. Their efforts revolutionized the gold mining of the world. From now on the camp will gradually drop from sight. Under the management of George H. Dern, the mill and mine have struggled on solving the problems to be met only to be confronted with new ones due to the ores becoming extremely refractory. It has long been known that the struggle was useless, but there was hope that a change would be encountered.

With the closing of this property goes the electric light system, the water system, the railroad and many other concerns of the company which were closely interlinked with the lives of the citizens. The Franklin Leasing company and a few other small concerns, employing in all about 35 men, are all that is left of the camp. The great mill that handled 600 tons of ore a day is to be dismantled and sold as is the machinery of the power plant. The railroad will probably be scrapped and sold.

Disaster in Miami

Mine; 100 Injured.

A Globe dispatch says:—An air blast generated by the fall of 3,000,000 tons of capping of the Miami mine, seven miles from here, killed three miners today and injured 100 others, four fatally.

The blast was so terrific that in the drifts on the 400 foot level ore was blown from 25 to 100 feet.

Three hundred men had gone on shift shortly before the cavein. A rumbling preceded the fall and warn-

ed them in time, so that many could get out of the danger zone. Then several hundred feet of capping went crashing down the slopes.

An investigation has been ordered by the Miami Copper company of statements made by miners that the cave in was the result of improper development work.

The accident is considered one of the most unusual character and is new to copper mining in the southwest. That there was danger of the collapse of the capping into the mine workings was undreamed of.

The development of the Miami has been in progress for more than four years and has been watched with the greatest of expert care. Recent inspection of the mine by Park Channing and other widely famed engineers was followed by expression of opinion that the mining system being followed not only gave excellent results in ore production but also provided abundant safety for the men underground.

The loss to the Miami by reason of the disaster will be large but is considered by the officials of the company as of minor importance in comparison with the injuries sustained by its men and the grief brought directly to the families of the killed and the fatally hurt and indirectly to the entire community.

While the most of the men lived at Miami, all were well known in Globe and since the news of the accident, which stunned the entire section, there has been gloom throughout the entire district.

The eastern offices of the Miami wired Miami immediately upon learning of the accident to let nothing go undone that might be accomplished for the injured and their families.

Steel Workers' Hours Reduced.

A Washington dispatch says:—Fifteen per cent of the employees in the iron and steel industry as a whole and more than 50 per cent of the blast furnace workmen work seven days a week, an investigation of the bureau of labor discloses. Commissioner Neill today made public the third volume of the bureau's investigation dealing with working conditions and the relations of employers and workmen.

The report states that since 1910, when the main investigation was made and when the normal working day for the majority of steel workers was twelve hours long with practically 30 per cent of the entire force regularly working seven days per week, a number of steel companies have put into effect various plans by which none of their employees are required or permitted to work more than six days a week. Between 40 and 50 per cent of the employees formerly working seven days per week have been affected by these arrangements, but 15 per cent still work every day in the week.

Extensive interviews with the workmen brought out the fact that in their opinion the six day arrangements have not secured to them advantages commensurate with the loss of a day's pay each week. The day of enforced rest does not give them a holiday either on Sunday or any other day on which their fellow workmen generally are also at leisure. On any day except Sunday the workmen say there is nothing to do except to sleep all day or go to saloons.

The proportion of men working twelve hours a day has been practically unchanged except for two plants which have introduced the eight hour system. Careful estimates of the maximum cost of substituting the eight hour day with a 50 per cent increase in hourly rates, so as to give the same daily earnings, show that even if there were no increase in efficiency the cost of pig iron would be only 2 1/2 per cent greater, or 45 cents per ton. In finished products the cost would be only 6 per cent greater, or between 1.70¢ and 2¢ per ton.

The report concludes that a system of three shifts of eight hours each is the only practicable substitute for the existing schedule of two shifts of twelve hours. Numerous advantages

of the eight hour system are pointed out and it is further shown that of the two steel plants which have recently adopted the eight hour day, one had no increase in its cost of production, while as a result of increased efficiency the cost of the other's products was actually less with the eight hour system than with the twelve hour system in spite of a considerable increase in wages.

Where Some of the Copper Goes.

While passing along Main at Second South recites the Salt Lake Herald Republican, an observant Utah mining man noted the fact that great coils of copper cable wires were being hauled out of the ground preparatory to the installation of newer and larger service cables, all of the purest kinds of copper. This led the observer to remark:

"Now there is an object lesson for Utah mine operators as to what, in a small way, becomes of copper. Only a few thousand pounds, perhaps, will be put under the ground in this particular instance, but what of the other numerous cables in this city and in every other modern city on earth? It means a requirement of millions upon millions of pounds of copper in this one line of industry.

"Then the other day I heard the statement that the Western Union is stringing several more transcontinental wires in Utah. These are all copper wires, as copper has proven by far superior in strength and conductivity to all others.

"Recently I was in New York, where they were laying some cables. These were all copper, and they weighed from 500 to 800 pounds to the yard. What a requirement is there!

"The Denver road has practically decided to electrify the entire line to Salt Lake. Other western railroads will fall in line. The Utah Copper mine and its Garfield railroad are to have everything electrified. Most of the big Utah mines receive power over copper wires. These are only a few trilling citations of local application to start local men thinking.

"Note how they are beginning to electrify out of Boston and other great eastern centers. A few years and all trunk trains will be driven by electricity.

"In Germany and other European nations the electrification of roads has recently been given a most wonderful stimulus.

"The world throughout is fast increasing its demands upon the copper mines. These demands will increase in leaps and bounds when the Balkan war and its threatened entanglements of the European powers comes to a close, when the Mexican situation clears up, when drastic legislation hides its head and the people of the United States stop worrying over politics. Then there will again be a firm demand for copper and at a stable price around 15 or 16 cents, which is good enough. A mine that cannot make profits on 15-cent copper should go out of the business."

Dividends From Utah Companies.

A Eureka, Utah, dispatch says:—Two Tintic mining companies, Grand Central 5 cents and Iron Blossom 10 cents, posted regular quarterly dividends at meeting in Provo. Black Jack levied an assessment of 1 cent and it was announced by Gold Chain directors that a 5-cent dividend would be paid by that company in May.

The Grand central dividend calls for a distribution of 25,000¢. This is payable on April 25 to stockholders of record April 20. This makes 50,000¢ for Grand Central in 1913, and will give the company a grand total dividend credit of 1,502,500¢. On the lower levels particularly the report is that there is an excellent showing of shipping ore.

Iron Blossom's new dividend requirement is 100,000¢. It will be distributed April 25 to stockholders of record April 20. This will give the company a record of 200,000¢ already

this year, with a grand total of 1,570,000¢. It was reported at the meeting that the new lead vein on the 600 level of the No. 1 workings is showing up in good shape.

At the Gold Chain meeting reports of physical conditions are being maintained steadily. It was given out that in May a 5-cent dividend would be announced by the directors.

Directors of the Black Jack Mining company levied an assessment of 1 cent a share. It was stated at the meeting that as soon as the proposed Knight mill is operating that the Black Jack will have ore to market.

Copper Queen Co.

Secures Extension.

It is understood that the Copper Queen Company has secured an extension of time upon the claims near Harshaw. The time was up on the 9th of this month for the first payment, but an extension was secured until the 1st of May. It is generally believed the big company will take this property, as everything is reported to be looking good at the works, and the lower tunnel recently run into some very fine ore. This property is adjoining the World's Fair.

At the present time the Copper Queen has a crew of between twenty and thirty men at work on the claims, under the supervision of Engineer Donald G. Miller. While nothing can be learned as to the intentions of the company, the fact that an extension of time was asked and granted, does not in the least indicate that the company has any intention to abandon the ground. On the contrary, it is known the big copper company usually asks an extension of a reasonable time in order to do further development work, on most of the properties it takes over.

In this case the extension was gladly granted by the men who are interested in the claims under bond. Such is their faith in the property they are willing to meet the company more than halfway. Men who know of the real value of the claims and the extent of the work done since the company has been on the ground are firmly of the belief that the Phelps Dodge interests will take up the option on the first day of May.—Santa Cruz Patagonian.

Something Doing at Cash.

For many months the Cash mine has been working steadily, the develop-

ment of the fine streak of ore tapped from the Senator tunnel having been the main issue. As the months went by, and the paystreak lengthened, it became evident that the existence of a big and valuable ore deposit was a certainty.

With the purpose of enlarging the scope of the enterprise, the Y. P. Mining Company was formed, and the work of operating the property upon a scale larger than ever before has been inaugurated. Among the plans for the near future are the overhauling and repair of the stamp mill, and the installation of new machinery needed at the mine and mill. In order that the mill may be accessible from the state highway, Maple gulch will be bridged. That highway will also be used by a big autotruck, which will be able to carry maximum loads over its easy grade to and from Prescott. For the purpose of carrying out the proposed improvements, Col. L. W. Getchell, president of the company, is now in California making necessary purchases. We are informed that the ore body of the Cash, tapped by cross-cut from the Senator tunnel, is some 600-feet in length, of average width of two feet, and of average value of 50¢ per ton. Apparently the claim is well named.—Prescott Courier.

One of the biggest real estate transfers, which will have an effect on interests in the city of Douglas, was made in that city recently when George M. Slaughter, R. L. Slaughter, W. B. Slaughter and George F. Woodward organized the Slaughter Land & Cattle company, and transferred to it the holdings of real estate in the Mocetzuma district, formerly owned by George F. Woodward. The transfer consists of more than 300,000 acres of fine grazing land.

Recommended for a Good Reason

Because they cured him of kidney and bladder trouble, C. H. Grant, 230 Waverly St., Peoria, Ill., tells the result of this taking Foley Kidney Pills. "Backache and congested kidneys made me suffer intense pains. Was always tired and floating specks bothered me. Took Foley Kidney Pills and saw big improvement after third day. I kept on until entirely freed of all trouble and suffering. That's why I recommend Foley Kidney Pills. They cured me." They are tonic in action, quick in results. H. H. Watkins, druggist.

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